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Modoc National Wildlife Refuge California

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Enjoying Your Visit to Modoc National Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Hours - Public use areas are open daily during daylight hours. Contact the Refuge Manager for special hunting hours.

Wildlife Observation and Photography - The auto tour route is a good place to begin your observing wildlife. This gravel road encircles Teal Pond. Current road condition information is available from headquarters.

Hunting - A portion of the Refuge is open to hunting (see map). Contact the Refuge Manager or California Department of Fish and Game for current regulations and seasons.

Fishing - Dorris Reservoir is open to fishing except during waterfowl hunting season. All state fishing regulations apply.

Dogs are permitted at Dorris Reservoir if they are under close control.

Educational Programs - Special programs and guided tours are available for schools, clubs and similar groups by advance request.

Dorris Reservoir attracts many anglers

When to Visit

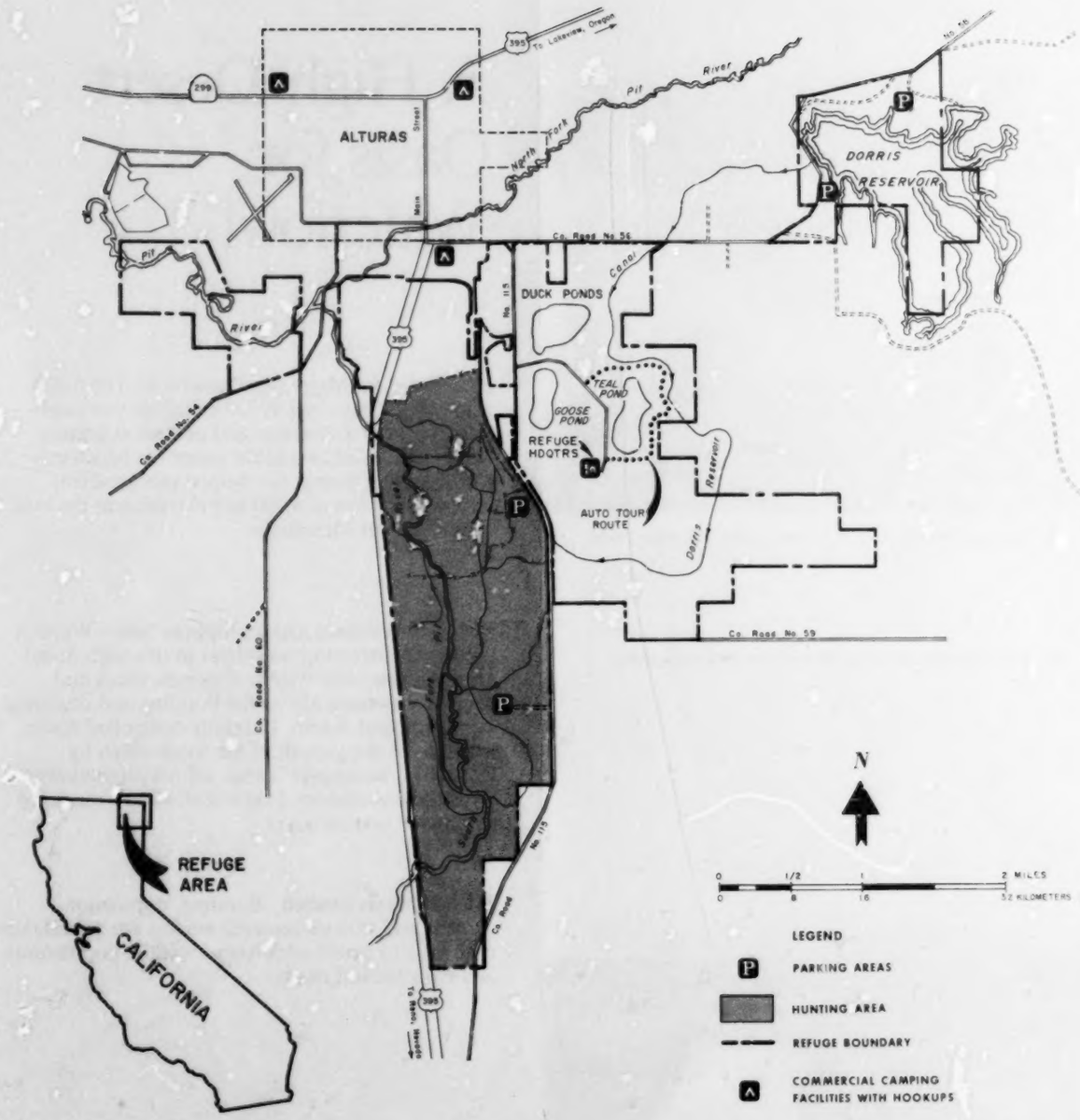
Spring and Fall - Canada geese and other waterfowl such as mallard, teal, gadwall, wigeon and pintail are the most conspicuous species in spring and fall. Lesser scaup, goldeneye and redhead are less common. Whistling swans may number as high as 700. Spring and fall are good times to see sandhill cranes, waterbirds, shorebirds and warblers. White-fronted geese are seen only in the spring.

Summer - Canada geese, mallard, cinnamon teal, gadwall, redhead, wigeon, ruddy ducks and sandhill cranes nest on the Refuge. Shorebirds such as willet, avocet, black-necked stilt and killdeer also nest on the Refuge.

White pelicans, double-breasted cormorants, common and snowy egrets and several species of terns, gulls, herons and rails spend the summer here. Red-tailed hawks, marsh hawks and short-eared owls are also common.

Winter - The lowest concentrations of birds occur during the winter months. Depending on the severity of the weather; Canada geese, goldeneye, bufflehead, mergansers and a few mallards winter on the Refuge. Up to six bald eagles have wintered here.

Mule deer, coyote, skunk, raccoon, mink, muskrat, ground squirrel, cottontail and black-tailed jackrabbit are year-round residents.



This managed marsh attracts Canada geese and other birds.

A High Desert Oasis for Waterfowl

Established for Migratory Waterfowl - The 6,203 acre Modoc National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1960 to manage and protect migratory waterfowl. Funds available under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act helped purchase this refuge which lies at 4,300 feet elevation at the base of the Warner Mountains.

A Canada goose searches for food

Water is ditched to flood marshes and to irrigate pastures.

Managed Wetlands Attract Birds to Nest - Water is the key to attracting waterfowl in this high desert area. An extensive system of ponds, dikes and control structures allows for flooding and draining of pasture and marsh. Carefully controlled water levels favor the growth of the foods eaten by waterfowl. Manmade islands afford protection for birds from predators. Hay meadows are managed to provide nesting cover.

Wildlife Needs Studied - Banding, population surveys and various research studies are undertaken each year to better understand wildlife populations and their habitat needs.

For more information write:

Refuge Manager
Modoc National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1610
Alturas, CA 96101

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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